

In the Claims:

Please cancel without prejudice claims 7, 13 and 18.

Please amend claims 1, 8 and 14.

1. (amended) A method of latching a door, comprising the steps of:

retaining pivotally a handle in the door, said handle having a locking portion on one end and a handle portion on the other end thereof;

attaching a handle latch to a mounting surface adjacent the door, said handle latch ~~being structured to receive said locking portion~~ having an extension passage leading to an extension slot;

biasing said handle such that said locking portion is retained in said ~~handle latch~~ extension slot; and

moving said handle axially ~~and~~ to remove said locking portion from said extension slot, pivoting said handle to remove said locking portion from said ~~handle latch~~ extension passage.

2. (original) The method of latching a door of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

retaining said handle with a locking mounting plate on one side of the door and a mounting plate on the other side of the door.

3. (original) The method of latching a door of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

securing a locking key to said handle, forming a lock slot in said locking mounting plate to receive said locking key.

4. (original) The method of latching a door of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

biasing said handle with a spring.

5. (original) The method of latching a door of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing a second mounting plate that is retained adjacent said locking mounting plate.

6. (original) The method of latching a door of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

inserting a first handle bearing into said mounting plate to pivotally retain said handle; and

inserting a second handle bearing into said second mounting plate to pivotally retain said handle.

Claim 7 (canceled)

8. (amended) A method of latching a door, comprising the steps of:

providing a handle having a locking portion on one end and a handle portion on the other end thereof;

retaining said handle pivotally with a locking mounting plate on one side of the door and a mounting plate on the other side of the door;

attaching a handle latch to a mounting surface adjacent the door, said handle latch ~~being structured to receive said locking portion~~ having an extension passage leading to an extension slot;

biasing said handle such that said locking portion is retained in said ~~handle latch~~ extension slot; and

moving said handle axially ~~and to remove said locking portion from said extension slot~~, pivoting said handle to remove said locking portion from said ~~handle latch~~ extension passage.

9. (original) The method of latching a door of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

securing a locking key to said handle, forming a lock slot in said locking mounting plate to receive said locking key.

10. (original) The method of latching a door of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

biasing said handle with a spring.

11. (original) The method of latching a door of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

providing a second mounting plate that is retained adjacent said locking mounting plate.

12. (original) The method of latching a door of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

inserting a first handle bearing into said mounting plate to pivotally retain said handle; and

inserting a second handle bearing into said second mounting plate to pivotally retain said handle.

Claim 13 (canceled)

14. (amended) A method of latching a sliding door, comprising the steps of:

retaining pivotally a handle in the sliding door, said handle having a locking portion on one end and a handle portion on the other end thereof;

attaching a handle latch to a mounting surface adjacent the door, said handle latch ~~being structured to receive said locking portion~~ having an extension passage leading to an extension slot;

biasing said handle radially such that said locking portion is retained in said ~~handle latch~~ extension passage; and

pivoting said handle such that said locking portion is removed from said ~~handle latch~~ extension passage and moving the sliding

door away from said handle latch.

15. (original) The method of latching a sliding door of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

retaining said handle with a first mounting plate on one side of the door and a second mounting plate on the other side of the door.

16. (original) The method of latching a sliding door of claim 15, further comprising the step of:

biasing said handle with a torsion spring, retaining at least one end of said torsion spring in one of said mounting plates.

17. (original) The method of latching a sliding door of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

inserting a first handle bearing into said first mounting plate to pivotally retain said handle; and

inserting a second handle bearing into said second mounting plate to pivotally retain said handle.

Claim 18 (canceled)

19. (original) The method of latching a sliding door of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

providing an opposing sliding door for said mounting surface.